

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 /079 W

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R 140936Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECSTATE WASHDC 9767

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IR

SUBJ: NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER GAINS IRANIAN OIL COMMITMENT

REF: KATHMANDU 0146

1. NEPALESE PRIME MINISTER RIJAL VISITED IRAN JAN. 7-9, BUT ONLY ONE DAY WAS SPENT IN TEHRAN. PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA HOSTED DINNER FOR RIJAL AND TOLD CHARGE LATER THAT RIJAL HAD COME WITH HIS HAND OUT. FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL PANAHI CONFIRMED THAT MAIN NEPALI REQUEST WAS FOR IRANIAN SUPPLY OF THE 80,000 TON PER YEAR PETROLEUM NEEDS WHICH INDIA NO LONGER PROVIDES. ALTHOUGH FINAL COMMUNIQUE ONLY COMMITS IRAN TO "SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION" OF NEPAL'S 1975 PETROLEUM REQUIREMENT, PANAHI SAID THAT GOI PROMISED OIL AND CHARACTERIZED THIS AS ONLY CONCRETE RESULT OF VISIT. NO INFORMATION YET AVAILABLE AS TO WHETHER CRUDE OR PRODUCTS INVOLVED, METHODS OF DELIVERY TO BE USED, OR TERMS OF PAYMENT. THE BRIEF COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS NEPAL'S ENDORSEMENT OF SHAH'S INDIAN OCEAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROPOSAL. IT FURTHER STATES THAT AN IRANIAN

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ECONOMIC MISSION WILL VISIT NEPAL BEFORE END OF APRIL 1975

TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION. NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS SUGGESTED, BUT AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND TRANSPORT MENTIONED AS PRIORITY AREAS. (COMMENT: SEEMS LIKELY NEPAL EVENTUALLY WILL BENEFIT FROM SMALL AMOUNT OF IRANIAN LARGESSE.)

2. CONFUSION OVER RIJAL'S SCHEDULE (REFTEL) GOT VISIT OFF TO BAD START. RIJAL WAS EXPECTED JAN. 1 AND NEPALI FLAGS WERE FLYING ON TEHRAN STREETS THAT DAY, BUT HOVEYDA HAD URGENTLY CONTACTED IRANIAN EMBASSY NEW DELHI TO ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE VISIT DUE TO HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE DURING PARLIAMENT'S CONSIDERATION GOI BUDGET. IRANIAN EMBASSY APPARENTLY REACHED RIJAL IN BANGKOK AND POSTPONEMENT WAS ARRANGED. IN FONMIN KHALATBARY'S ABSENCE, UNDER SECRETARY TAJBAKHSR JOINED HOVEYDA IN MEETING RIJAL AT AIRPORT, BUT VISIT WAS GIVEN LOW KEY TREATMENT BY GOI AND PRESS COVERAGE WAS MINIMAL.

3. PRESS HAD SPECULATED THAT IRAN AND NEPAL MIGHT ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN RESPECTIVE CAPITALS, BUT THIS DID NOT MATERIALIZE. PANAHI COMMENTED THERE WERE NO IRANIANS IN NEPAL AND CURRENT ACCREDITATION IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA IN KATHMANDU WAS SUFFICIENT FOR NEAR FUTURE.

MIKLOS

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